



Parish Newsletter 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C 2024

Mass Intentions 7th December – 15th December

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 9) Ruby Trussler (RIP)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Oscar Wietczak (Birthday, Thanksgiving) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 10)	8.30am	Holy Souls (dusze w czyśćcu cierpiące)
Monday ICBVM	9.00am 7.00pm	People of the Parish Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 11)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Philomina Jacob (SI) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 12)		
Wednesday	7-8 pm	Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Steven Reid (SI) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 13)
Thursday	9.00am	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 14) Bogdan (Birthday, SI)		
Friday			10.00am	Ann Mary Jacob (RIP) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 15)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 16) Agnes Ruby (RIP, Ann.)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Steve Daniel (Thanksgiving, Birthday) Kazimierz Popiel (Gregorian Mass 17)	8.30am	Patrick Doyle (RIP, Ann.)



The whole history of Judaic-Christian culture is built on "expectation" - the coming of the Messiah, the One who saves, the Anointed One, the Christ" to be followed, in due course, by the Second Coming, the Judgement. Today's readings deal with this sense of expectation.

Baruch 5:1-9 states, in very poetic language, that the exiled Jewish people will return to their holy city, Jerusalem, led by their God, to enjoy a new era of prosperity and peace.

Phil. 1:3-6, 8-11: After expressing his deep feeling of affection for them, Paul invites them to an even higher standard of Christian discipleship. There is no limit to what he expects of them.

Luke 3:1-6 uses the ministry of John the Baptist as a platform from which to write of the ministry of Christ. Both ministries speak of a monumental turning point in the lives of people presenting them with opportunity, urgency and expectation. "Prepare a way for the Lord".

Prayer for Lighting the Second Candle - Peace: "God of peace, as we light the second Advent candle of peace, may your peace fill our hearts and our world. Help us to be peacemakers in our relationships and communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:

Fr Boguslaw Kot MS: Parish Priest, Fr Leszek Gamracy MS: Assistant Priest

The Presbytery, Howard Way, Harlow, Essex CM20 2NS • Tel/ 01279 426017

Email: harlowolf@brcdt.org

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 23409

Our Lady of Fatima Hall:

olfharlow@gmail.com

07425633193

St. Thomas More Hall:

cruzblessen@gmail.com

07399846607

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM: Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am **OLF:** Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

FEAST OF THIS WEEK:

Saturday 9th December: **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - Solemnity

Friday 13th December: **St. Lucy, V, M** - Memorial

Saturday 14th December: **St. John of the Cross, Pr, D.** - Memorial

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Holy Cross Parish, Harlow – Tuesday 10th December 7.00pm

Our Lady of Fatima, Harlow - Sunday 22nd December 5.00pm

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS, READERS and ALL - HOLY HOUR & MEETING

Sunday 8th December 2.30 – 3.30 OLF

CHURCH CLEANING:

OLF Church: Friday 13th December – **Team C**, English Communion Group

SVP The next meeting is Tuesday **10th December** 7.30 – 8.30 in OLF hall

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Twice a month on the First & Third Friday, 6.30pm OLF Hall (behind the stage meeting room)

FIRST COMMUNION Children: 11th December 5.30pm OLF Hall

RCIA: The group will continue to meet in the Presbytery on Tuesday 10th December.

PREMISES MEETING: The Presbytery on Monday 16th December.

FUND RAISING TEAM We are looking to form a Fund-Raising Team. If you are interested, could you please email: harlowolf@brcdt.org with your contact details.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE Christmas Hamper draw will take place Sunday, **8th December** after the 10.30 mass. In the church hall.

READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these go to www.whatgoodnews.org

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025 are available for purchase (donation).

OLF & STM Social & Fund Raising: Christmas Hampers

We would appreciate your support with food donations that can go towards the Hampers – this can be spare tins/jars of food, pasta (dry goods), biscuits, cakes, soft drinks in your cupboard. If you would like to nominate a family or someone within the community who may appreciate a food hamper for Christmas, please email harlowolf@brcdt.org with your contact details and we will liaise directly with you. Please ensure there is a good shelf life on any food donations, there will be a collection point for donations from Saturday 7th December until Sunday 15th December.

Pray for the sick: J.C. Nkosa, Oswald Donkor, Teresa Lambe, Noreen Wright, Romualda Ratajczyk, Grace Fisher, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Pam Matthews, Andrew Dodge, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter, Tom Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanisław Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, May Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Słota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alice and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Fr P Sofij MS, Gerald O'Brien, Mario Pascale, Robert King, Sheila Maher, Mary Doran, Des Rowan, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patrica Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Piotr Chudy, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, John Stenson, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Eileen Hynes, Irene Heaphy, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, Zbigniew Sienkiewicz, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Conway Love, Giuseppe Lobue, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn, and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

www.olfstm.weebly.com or stmandolphparish.co.uk

The Season of Advent



As the days get shorter in many parts of the world, we enter a season of waiting and preparation. Both Lent and Advent are seasons of waiting, preparation, and penance. Like Lent, Advent is a season of waiting, preparation and repentance. The colour purple liturgically represents these spiritual themes for both seasons. During Lent, we await Christ's return from 40 days in the desert, His loving sacrifice for us, and Resurrection. In Advent, we prepare for His birth. The birth and resurrection of Christ are intertwined, and their connection is quite significant theologically. Yet, these seasons of waiting look different for us – Advent is a uniquely joyous and hopeful season in the Church.

We light candles amidst the darkness. We find warmth in the cold, dark winter season. And we come together as friends and family to celebrate the coming of our Saviour.

Advent is also the beginning of a new liturgical year. (This Advent season marks the start of Year C.) We begin the year anew, renewed by His birth.

The Advent wreath is a common symbol of the liturgical season. Its purpose is *literally* to light the way to the true Light of the World. The circular wreath, typically made of evergreen leaves like pine or fir, represents God's infinite and everlasting love for us. It also holds four candles to light each Sunday of Advent.

Prayer for Lighting the First Candle - Hope: "Loving God, as we light the first Advent candle of hope, we ask for your presence to fill our hearts and homes. May the hope of Christ's coming bring light to our darkness and renew our spirits. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Prayer for Lighting the Second Candle - Peace: "God of peace, as we light the second Advent candle of peace, may your peace fill our hearts and our world. Help us to be peacemakers in our relationships and communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Prayer for Lighting the Third Candle - Joy: "Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us to share this joy with others, especially those in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

Prayer for Lighting the Fourth Candle - Love: "Heavenly Father, as we light the fourth Advent candle of love, may your love inspire us to love one another as you have loved us. Let your love guide our actions and words. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception

A mystery that never ceases to invite the contemplation of believers and inspires the reflection of theologians.

The Immaculate Conception means that Mary from the first moment of her existence was totally free from the influence of that universal sinfulness which touches us all from the time we are born. The reason behind this belief (which is not explicitly contained in Scripture and was only infallibly defined in 1854) is that only a totally sinless environment was fitting for the Son of God in his becoming a human being. It has a very long history in the Church.

The Masses: Monday 9th December: 9.00 am and 7.00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church.